

AD 1110

Torrance, California  
July 25, 1950

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber of the City Hall at 8:05 p.m. on Tuesday, July 25, 1950, Mayor Haggard presiding.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett were: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Powell, Spelman and Haggard. Also present were City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Smith.

All persons present participated in the salute to our Flag.

Mayor Haggard announced the time had come for the public hearing on the vacation of Huber Street. City Manager Stevens presented Clerk Bartlett with communications from Southern California Gas Company, Pacific Telephone and Telegraph and Torrance Municipal Improvement District No. 1 relative to their utility lines and requesting reservation of easements. Oral communications were called for. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Powell moved that the hearing be declared closed and that the City Attorney and City Manager be authorized to prepare an ordinance taking care of the easements for presentation at the next regular meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Bartlett read the following:

Letter from North Torrance Civic Improvement Ass'n requesting advice as to action taken re the excavation between Arlington and Western and 174th and 178th, and asking that the agreement between

the City and Builders Brick be reviewed. Councilman Blount moved the communication be referred to the next agenda meeting for discussion by the Council as a whole. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman. In answer to inquiry by Councilman Drale, City Attorney Smith advised that the Title Insurance Co. had acknowledged receipt of our request but as yet no report had been received. Motion carried.

Letter signed by 15 business houses protesting passage of ordinance prohibiting pinball machines, and suggesting the matter be placed on the November ballot. Wm. E. McFaden, attorney, speaking on behalf of the group, urged the matter be given more study. Discussion followed with Councilman Powell moving that, if two or three hours at the beginning of the next agenda meeting be devoted to the discussion of ordinances tabled from time to time, the matter be discussed at agenda. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Letter from General Petroleum requesting change in payment date under Franchise Ordinance No. 351. Councilman Spelman moved request be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

Report of receipts for year ending July 10, 1950 and check for \$882.00 under franchise ordinance from Standard Gas Company. Matter of record.

Request from First Church of Christ, Scientist, requesting free use of Auditorium on Sunday, September 17, 1950, for presentation of a lecture. Councilman Blount moved request be granted and the writer so informed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Petition with 20 signatures requesting re-hearing by the Council and Planning Commission on variance granted for the erection of a medical center at Torrance Blvd. and Acacia. City Attorney Smith advised he believed their only remedy was to appeal to the Court. At the suggestion of Mayor Haggard, Councilman Spelman moved the matter be turned over to the City Attorney for his written legal opinion as to what action should be taken. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

Letter from the Las Vecinas Woman's Club advising of their Youth Festival on August 19th and requesting the Council waive license fees for concessions at El Retiro Park. Councilman Powell moved the request be granted providing the City Attorney approved the concessions mentioned. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Letter from United Public Workers of America relative to two unsettled matters, on behalf of City workers, and requesting a meeting. Councilman Powell moved the City Manager prepare a schedule showing the holiday "discrepancies" between the City Hall employees and other departments for discussion at the next agenda meeting. Discussion followed with motion being seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Memorandum to the Council from City Attorney Smith enclosing copy of an article relative to deduction of union dues from pay checks. Copies having been sent to each Councilman, Councilman Spelman moved further reading of the memorandum be dispensed with. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried. Councilman Blount moved the communication be referred to the agenda meeting for discussion. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried, with Councilman Drale dissenting.

Verified claim of Mrs. Annie Robinson for personal injury sustained at 911 Sartori, in the amount of \$10,450.00. Councilman Drale moved the claim be referred to the City Attorney for disposition. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Letter from John S. Cummings offering a grant deed to Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block C, Tract 16850, in exchange for the City's interest to certain property in Hollywood Riviera. Following brief discussion, Councilman Drale moved the matter be tabled for further study. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried.

Letter from Rome Cable Corp. re proposed purchase of Lots 9 and 10 and portions of Lots 29 and 30, at a price of \$5500. Councilman Drale moved that the City Attorney, together with the City Manager, be designated to negotiate the sale of the property. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Request from Paul Slonecker, Garage Foreman, for leave of absence of one month. On recommendation of City Manager, Councilman Drale moved request be granted for period Aug. 1 to Aug. 27, 1950. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Letter from the director of Torrance Area Youth Bands re proposed budget and requesting a meeting with the Council to discuss increase in allotment. Councilman Spelman moved the communication be referred to the Budget Committee. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried.

Letter from the Planning Commission recommending Resolution authorizing a Conditional Permit to Walter A. Klein to re-subdivide the West 1/2 of Lot 12, Tract 845, into two lots 41' x 239' each. Councilman Drale moved the Council concur with the request. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Letter from the Planning Commission recommending refund of \$35 to Walter A. Klein, (variance fee paid) no expenses having been incurred by the City. Councilman Powell moved the request be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Planning Commission re Case No. 194, Petition of William Malat and Louis Lesser for change of zone, affecting portion of Lot 1, Tract No. 7873; approval recommended; requesting time be set for third and final hearing. Councilman Blount moved the hearing be set for 8:00 p.m. August 22, 1950. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

As unfinished business, Clerk Bartlett again presented the following communications:

Proposal of Logan R. Cotton for auditing the books and accounts for the fiscal year. At the suggestion of Mayor Haggard, Councilman Drale moved the contract be awarded Mr. Cotton. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Request from Lad 'N Lassie Studio for permit to solicit for photographs. Clerk Bartlett advised investigation had been made and report was favorable. Councilman Blount moved permit be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Request from Huntington Land & Improvement Co. requesting the City release its easement reservations retained on Hollywood Palos Verdes Parkway. Councilman Drale moved the communication be referred, along with the previous letter from Mr. Cumming, to the agenda meeting for study. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried.

Request of Geo. R. Johnson to park a trailer at 23537 Madison for a night watchman. Chief Stroh reported the family had vacated the trailer and that no one is occupying it at the present time. Councilman Powell moved that when the building permits have been obtained from the Engineer's Office, the request be granted for 90 days. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Request from Stuart Mortgage & Building Co. to park a trailer for a night watchman at 174th and Atkinson. Chief Stroh advised he had told them the trailer could be used as an office for the watchman. Councilman Blount moved a 90-day permit be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried.

Recess was declared at 9:15. Meeting reconvened at 9:20.

Clerk Bartlett read the following recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

PERSONNEL:

1. That the following changes in sick leave and vacation allowances for City employees be made:

- (a) That sick leave allowance be increased from six (6) days per year to twelve (12) days per year and that the maximum accumulated sick leave be increased from thirty (30) days to sixty (60) days.
- (b) That vacation allowance be increased from two weeks per year to three weeks per year for employees with fifteen (15) years or more service.

Councilman Powell moved the Council concur with the recommendations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

#### APPROPRIATIONS:

1. For Comprehensive Liability Insurance for the year 1950-51, the sum of \$5,091.88.

Councilman Spelman moved the recommendation be approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

#### MISCELLANEOUS:

1. That the following buildings, having been completed in accordance with plans and specifications, be accepted by the City:
  - (a) Recreation buildings at El Retiro and McMaster Parks.
  - (b) Storeroom and Recreation Department Offices, adjacent to Civic Auditorium.
2. That the City Attorney be authorized to investigate the financial condition of the Veteran's Emergency Rentals, Inc., to determine if proper reserve funds have been set up for demolition purposes and to insure that said funds will be held for demolition purposes only.

Councilman Powell moved to concur with the recommendations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

#### TRAFFIC CONTROL:

That the City Attorney be authorized to prepare the necessary ordinances to establish the following regulatory signs, in accordance with the recommendation of the Traffic Commission:

1. Four-way STOP at Crenshaw Boulevard and 190th Street.
2. One-hour parking on Post Avenue between Sartori and Cravens Avenues.
3. No parking (2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m.) on streets in Hollywood Riviera.
4. 25-mile per hour zone on Carson Street between Crenshaw Boulevard and Flower Street.
5. That Right Turns only be allowed from driveways entering Cabrillo Avenue between Carson Street and Border Avenue.

Councilman Drale moved the Council concur with the recommendations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

A letter was read from City Manager Stevens recommending the following persons to the Taxation and Budget Commission for the fiscal year, in addition to the City Attorney, City Auditor, City Clerk, Councilman Spelman and City Manager: (1) A. L. Puetz, (2) Charles V. Jones, (3) Dean Sears, and (4) Henry Miller. Councilman Spelman moved the recommendations be approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

A report was read from the City Manager as to progress in establishing the Disaster Council and appointing memberships.

Councilman Powell moved the recommendations be concurred in. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Clerk Bartlett then read the title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2074 $\frac{1}{2}$

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
APPROVING AGREEMENT FOR MAINTENANCE OF STATE HIGHWAY  
IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Powell moved further reading of the Resolution be dispensed with. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Powell moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2074 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2075 $\frac{1}{2}$

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
ACCEPTING QUITCLAIM DEED FROM COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TO  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND AUTHORIZING RECORDING OF SAME.

Councilman Drale moved further reading of the Resolution be dispensed with. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2075 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2076 $\frac{1}{2}$

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
ACCEPTING QUITCLAIM DEED FROM REMCO-REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT COMPANY TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND AUTHORIZING  
RECORDING OF SAME.

Councilman Powell moved further reading of the Resolution be dispensed with. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2076 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2077

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO  
ACCEPT, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, THAT CERTAIN EASEMENT  
DEED FROM HIGGINS BRICK & TILE CO.

Councilman Drale moved further reading of the Resolution be dispensed with. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2077. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2078

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO  
EXECUTE GRANT OF EASEMENT TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON  
COMPANY TO SERVE TRACT 16700.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Powell moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2078. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2079

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
RELATIVE TO WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE FOR REGISTERED VOLUNTEER "DISASTER SERVICE WORKERS".

AB9910



Councilman Powell moved further reading of the Ordinance be dispensed with. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Powell moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 524 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens urged that all claims, such as Mrs. Robinson's, be referred to the insurance carrier immediately. City Attorney Smith advised he had discussed the claim problem with the carrier, Mr. Lund, and that he (Mr. Lund) requested a full statement setting forth the City's defense, if any, be submitted with each claim, together with a statement of facts. Councilman Powell moved the City Attorney draft a resolution providing for the forms of accident reports, that such reports be made mandatory, and that reports be immediately sent to the carrier. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

City Attorney Smith advised the Council he was still receiving phone calls and visits complaining of the kennel on Torrance Blvd. City Clerk Bartlett advised the License Inspector had visited the premises and that preparations were under way for the vacation of the property this coming Friday.

ABSTRACT

The City Council having accepted the Consulting Engineer's report on the consolidation of the three water districts and the inclusion of the remaining portion of the City of Torrance into one district, Councilman Blount moved "that the City Attorney be instructed to initiate the necessary procedure to accomplish the above consolidation and to carry it through to the final establishment of one water department for the City of Torrance, and that the firm of O'Melveny and Myers be retained as Bond Consultants." Motion was seconded by Councilman Spelman. Discussion followed with City Attorney Smith advising no bond issue was necessary to consolidate -- that the City Council could consolidate the districts; that the money raised by the bond issue would go to pay off the bonded indebtedness which exists at the present time. Councilman Blount, stating "If the City Attorney thinks my motion is not well taken, I wish to amend that motion so it will be", withdrew his motion and Councilman Spelman withdrew his second. Councilman Blount then moved that an ordinance or resolution be drawn to consolidate the City of Torrance into one water district in conformity with the report of the Consulting Engineer. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Blount then moved that the City Attorney be instructed to draw a resolution retaining James M. Montgomery as consulting engineer and that the City adopt the remuneration schedule set by the American Society of Civil Engineers. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale asked if a petition had been received from the residents of Date Street requesting paving of the street and the City Manager replied that he thought one had been received. Councilman Drale moved the matter be given immediate attention. Discussion followed with City Manager Stevens stating that he didn't believe the program should be disrupted but that the paving would be done in due course. There being no second to Councilman Drale's motion, same was declared lost.

Councilman Powell moved that some sort of legislation be put into effect to enable the City employees to enlist in the armed forces if they so desire, rather than wait until they are drafted, and still retain their employment status. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Manager proceed at once to procure something in the way of a public address system for the Council Chamber, recommendation to be made at the next agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Powell moved that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 11th and the Special Meeting of July 21st be approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried, with Councilman Blount dissenting.

Councilman Blount moved that his remarks of July 11th, in regard to item 8, under Written Communications (letters urging adoption of ordinances prohibiting pinball machines and punchboards), be made a part of the minutes as they were said for the benefit of the record and did not appear. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell (with the request that his remarks also appear), carried.

Minutes of July 11th, under Written Communications, item 8, stand amended as follows:

"Councilman Blount, in regard to these communications, stated that 'it has been the custom to request it to be drawn, and I think if Mr. Powell would present it, this Council would act on it.' Councilman Powell remarked that some six months ago Ordinance No. 505, creating a Judiciary Committee, had been submitted and that he thought something should be done and that he wished to revive it, whereupon he presented each Councilman with a copy of Ordinance No. 505 for study before next meeting."

At 10:02 p.m., Mayor Haggard declared a short recess. Meeting reconvened at 10:07.

Sherman Miller, 1606 Gramercy, President of Local 360, United Public Workers of America, asked when they were to be allowed the hearing requested in their letter read earlier this evening. Lengthy discussion followed between the Council and Mr. Miller, following which Councilman Drale moved the request for a hearing be granted and that the hearing be held prior to August 8th. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

H. S. Gray, of Hollywood Riviera, inquired as to the proposed discontinuance of their bus service and registered a protest. He was advised that no hearing was set for this meeting but that the Council would be glad to hear his protest. Lengthy discussion followed, Councilman Blount expressing himself as being in favor of discontinuance and Councilman Drale as being in favor of retaining the service. Mr. Gray was advised by the Mayor that any petition which he wished to submit would be considered.

Mr. Plomert, of General Petroleum, inquired as to the approximate amount of the proposed bond issue in connection with improvements to the water system and was advised the sum was approximately \$2,000,000.00 for the whole program.

A. N. Palmer, representing Collier's Magazine, etc., at some length urged the Council to reconsider its prohibition of house to house soliciting under Ordinance 483 stating that, in his opinion, the Ordinance was unconstitutional. He was advised the Council would consider the matter. Mr. Palmer left his address with the City Clerk that he might be informed of the Council's decision.

Commander Mason, of Hollywood Riviera, inquired as to how the consolidation of the water districts would affect his area and was informed they would not be affected. Councilman Blount offered his copy of the survey report for study by the Commander.

Councilman Powell moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 10:37 p.m., Councilman Blount moved the meeting be adjourned. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE